

(2) the very large cost of works that have been taken up for investigation and estimation; and

(3) the delay and difficulty of obtaining land under the Land Acquisition Regulation?

(d) Does not the bad alignment of these private roads stand in the way of the Public Works Department when it proceeds to bring those roads under departmental control for maintenance, etc.?

(e) Do not Government feel that the time has come for them to take up the question of private roads in all earnestness with a view to encourage private enterprise by offering substantial co-operation and help?

(f) Will Government be pleased to make the necessary rules and specifications regarding—

(1) proper and speedy alignment of roads by the Public Works Department before the work is commenced by the people;

(2) re-adjustment of the existing Poramboke lands with those of the neighbouring land owners for purposes of proper alignment;

(3) prompt acquisition of lands belonging to recalcitrant owners by the Revenue Department by some summary method;

(4) the grant or contribution, by the Government, of a portion of the expenses;

(5) the construction of culverts and bridges by the Department without delay; and

(6) the taking of the roads by the Department for maintenance, etc., as soon as they are completed?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

5 A.—The Chief Engineer has, at the instance of Government, submitted a set of draft rules on the subject, and they are now under the consideration of Government.

Mr. John Nidiry.

6 Q.—(a) Are Government aware of the pendency of a very large number of transfer of registry cases in the Land Revenue Department to the great inconvenience of the tax-payers and the Village Officers who have to realise the tax?

(b) Have Government any idea of the great hardship experienced by land holders in the matter of the enjoyment of their lands and the due payment of their share of the land tax, as the Patta, Settlement Register, Chitta, Survey Plan and other Settlement Records are not corrected up to date in accordance with the several transfers that have taken place after the issue of the Patta at the last Settlement?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that the list of voters for the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly prepared by the Land Revenue Department are imperfect and that those who want to correct the list find it extremely difficult on account of the unsatisfactory state of these records?

(d) Would it not be feasible for Government to authorize the Tahsildars to issue provisional Pattas every year noting the changes up to date in accordance with the several transfers effected after the issue of the Patta from the Settlement Department? If so, will Government be pleased to arrange accordingly?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

6 A.—Tahsildars have the power to issue pattas in pokkuvaravu cases. There is, therefore, no need for the grant of provisional pattas. The remedy lies in the quick disposal of pokkuvaravu cases and in the prompt issue of pattas by revenue officers. Government are insisting on both these items of work being done expeditiously and have empowered Assistant Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars also to deal with pokkuvaravu cases. The revised Pokkuvaravu Rules, issued recently under date the 6th March 1921, are intended to secure this object.

Mr. John Nidiry.

7 Q.—(a) Do Government sufficiently know the difficulties experienced by the people in obtaining copies of Oloogus, Oloogu forms, Land Registers, Survey Plans, Chittas and other public Land Revenue Records from the Revenue Department?

(b) When every man has a right to get copies of registered private documents from the Sub-Registrar's Office, why should Government show so much reluctance in giving copies of public records to those who apply for the same?

(c) Why should Government insist on the production of a certificate from a Civil Court whenever a person applies for a copy of a land revenue record of another's property, without which the former cannot purchase land or sell it through the Civil Court in execution of court decrees?

(d) Do Government think that any man's right over his property will be prejudicially affected by giving copies of these records?

(e) Do not Government think that the production of a certificate from a Civil Court for getting copies of these records is very often impracticable and that it is an unnecessary impediment without any corresponding advantage either to Government or to the parties concerned?

(7) Will Government therefore be pleased to look into the matter carefully and make the necessary arrangements for the grant of copies of all Land Revenue Records which are so necessary for those who have to deal with landed properties?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

7 A.—There is no rule that court certificates should be produced by applicants for copies of revenue records. The question of laying down clear rules in *re* the grant of copies of such records is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

8 Q.—Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leading article that appeared in the *Trivandrum Daily News* of the 12th April 1921, on the retirement of Dr. Barker, and to the observations thereon contained in the leading article in the same paper of the 18th May 1921? Will the Government be pleased to make a detailed statement of the circumstances under which Dr. Barker has been permitted to retire from service so soon after he was confirmed as Director of Industries?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

8 A.—The answer to the first part of the question is 'yes' and to the second part of the question 'no'.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

9 Q.—Will the Government be pleased to state what action they have taken or they propose to take on the representations made at the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly regarding the desirability of separating the functions of the Financial Secretary to Government from the Chief Account Officer and of appointing a separate officer as Financial Secretary?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

9 A.—The question of the need for a change in the existing arrangement under which the Chief Account Officer is also the Financial Secretary of the State was considered by Government in 1918, and it was then decided that there was no necessity to modify the system. Nothing has since transpired to make it necessary to reconsider the decision already arrived at.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai.

10 Q.—Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to bring about an effectual separation of the judiciary from the executive?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

10 A.—The matter is engaging the attention of Government.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

11 Q.—(a) Are the Government aware that Muthukuzhi Vayal, in the Southern Division, is one of the best sanatoria in the State, that at present there is no building in that place for the accommodation of visitors, and that, considering the climatic condition of the place and the nature of the forest and the road leading to it, it is neither easy nor safe to put up temporary sheds or other accommodation?

(b) Will the Government consider the desirability of constructing a small Travellers' Bungalow at the place for the accommodation of hot-weather visitors, at least on payment of fees?

Secretary Mr. S. Parameswara Aiyar.

11 A.—Government will investigate the matter.

Mr. M. Subrahmanya Pillai.

12 Q.—(a) Are the Government aware that the major portion of the inhabitants of the Southern Division are Tamilians, that most of the parties and witnesses that appear in the District and Munsiffs' Courts at Nagercoil are Tamilians, that the documents generally produced in these courts are drawn up in Tamil, that, though the parties and witnesses that appear before these courts generally depose in Tamil, their depositions are translated and taken down in the Malayalam language and consequently the witnesses are obliged to sign these papers without reading them, and that copies of such documents obtained from courts are of no use to parties without outside help?

(b) Are the Government aware of the representations made on the subject by the TAMILIAN members in the different sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and also by public bodies on various occasions, and the Government's replies thereto?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to give effect to the policy of appointing as Judicial Officers in Nanjinad only persons who have a sound knowledge of Tamil and also to direct that all depositions in Tamil should be taken down in the Tamil language itself and thus remove the great difficulties now experienced by the litigant public of Nanjinad and Edanad?

Chief Secretary Mr. N. Rajaram Rao.

12 A.—Government understand that when parties and witnesses depose in Tamil the general practice for the courts in question is to take down these depositions in the Tamil language itself, though in Malayalam characters, and that these depositions are invariably read out to the deponents before they are made to sign the same. The High court report that they have made it a rule that only officers with a working knowledge of Tamil should be posted to taluks having a preponderance of Tamil-speaking population.